



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **2012 OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP Working Together for a Clean Santa Barbara Harbor Saturday, May 5th from 8:00 a.m. to Noon**

**SANTA BARBARA, CA – 05-02-2012**

The seafloor in any busy harbor can grow littered with lost or discarded junk, impacting boating safety, navigability and the environment. You may ask yourself, “What’s really down there, and how can we clean it up?”

Enter Santa Barbara Harbor’s Sixth Annual Operation Clean Sweep on Saturday, May 5th. A team of divers will plunge into harbor waters under Marina 1 ‘E’ through ‘H’ finger docks from 8:00 a.m. to noon, supported by dozens of dock workers who will cart off what the divers retrieve.

The City of Santa Barbara’s Waterfront Department joins volunteers from Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, Surfrider Foundation, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, harbor dive businesses and others to clean up the Harbor and improve boater safety and navigability. The public is welcomed to come down and watch the activities. It’s surprising what comes up! To date, this annual event has resulted in removal of 18,000 pounds of seafloor debris—traps, bicycles, steering wheels, barbecues and more. For more information contact the Harbormaster’s Office at (805) 564-5531.

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